



WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE
THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

2011 YEARBOOK

West Virginia's Promise – The Alliance for Youth
West Virginia's Promise VISTA Project

"Reflections of their year of service"



WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE
THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

The Little Red Wagon

“The little red wagon. A symbol of childhood. It could be filled with a child’s hopes and dreams or weighted down with their burdens. Millions of American children need our help to pull that wagon along. Let’s all pull together.”

General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.)
Founding Chairman
America’s Promise



“NOW MORE THAN EVER, IT IS ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL THAT WE DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO ENSURE THAT THE CHILDREN OF OUR NATION ARE HAPPY, HEALTHY AND SAFE. ALTHOUGH STATISTICS HAVE IMPROVED IN RECENT YEARS, WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE ALL OUR CHILDREN RECEIVE THE FIVE PROMISES THEY SO RIGHTFULLY DESERVE. NO ONE INDIVIDUAL, ORGANIZATION OR EDUCATION SYSTEM IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, BUT INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WE MUST ALL DO OUR PART TO HELP; BY TEACHING, TUTORING, MENTORING OR EVEN JUST SHARING A MEAL WITH A YOUNG PERSON, YOU WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HELP TO ENSURE THAT OUR CHILDREN HAVE A BRIGHTER FUTURE. EVERY INDIVIDUAL WHO SHARES THEIR TIME HELPS TO SHOW OUR YOUNG PEOPLE THAT WE TRULY CARE AND THAT WE BELIEVE THEY DESERVE A QUALITY LIFE.”

Joanne Jaeger Tomblin

First Lady

West Virginia

WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE

THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE VISTA PROJECT

Our Vision

All young people in West Virginia are prepared for success in school, work and life.

Our Mission

Mobilize state and local partners so every young person in West Virginia receives the **Five Promises: [Caring Adults](#), [Safe Places](#), [A Healthy Start](#), [An Effective Education](#), and [Opportunities to Help Others](#).**

Our Goals

West Virginia's Promise will mobilize communities, raise awareness and support policies that increase the support young people have in communities where they live, work and play.

The Five Promises Change Lives

The Five Promises are those developmental resources — wrap-around supports — that young people need for success in life. Research shows that if the **Five Promises** are consistently fulfilled, they can significantly advance the health and well-being of the next generation — increasing the chances of youth becoming successful adults. Children who receive at least four of the **Five Promises** are much more likely than those who experience only one or zero Promises to succeed academically, socially and civically. They are more likely to avoid violence, contribute to their communities and achieve high grades in school. Receiving at least four of the **Five Promises** also appears to mitigate gaps across racial and economic boundaries. To experience the full power of the Promises, young people must experience these critical supports throughout their lives — in their families, at schools and out in their communities.

WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE - THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH AMERICORPS VISTA PROJECT

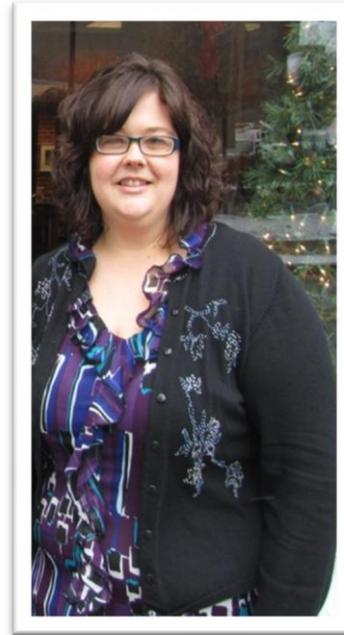


West Virginia's Promise – The Alliance for Youth provides VISTA resources to organizations that serve children and youth. Promise VISTA members are placed throughout the state to serve in developing the **Five Promises** to sustain programs by increasing funding to support program development.

VISTA members identify, enhance and increase community awareness to mobilize communities to provide all **Five Promises** to children and youth including those in and aging out of foster care.

There are as many reasons to serve as there are people who serve. Volunteering is not just an altruistic act. It's an opportunity to advance in all areas of your life. Here are a few of the things you can gain when you give your time and yourself.

WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH



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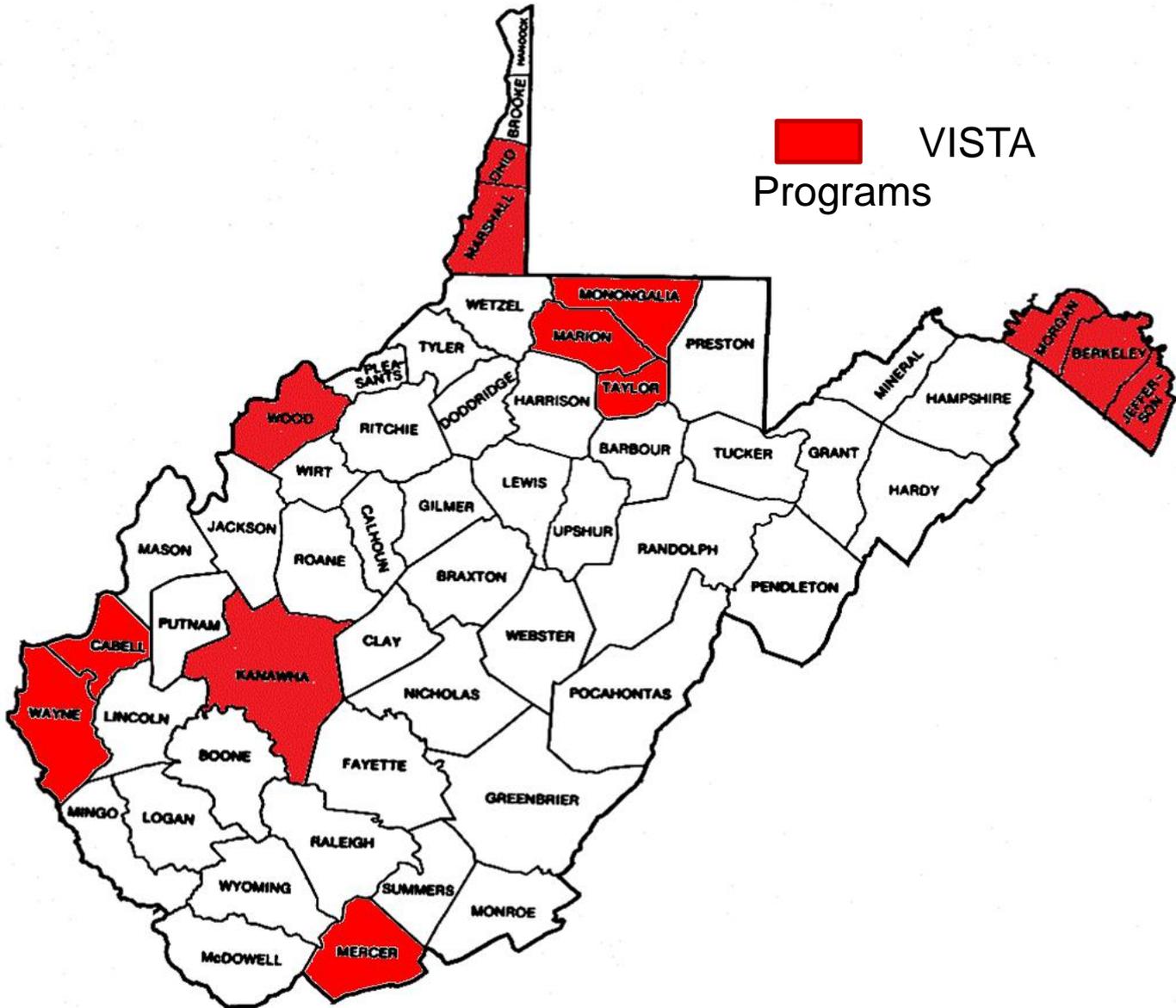
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WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE – FIVE PROMISES

- **Caring Adults** Ongoing relationships with caring adults – parents, mentors, tutors or coaches – offer youth support, care and guidance.
- **Safe Places** Safe places with structured activities during nonschool hours provide both physical and emotional safety for youth.
- **Healthy Start** Adequate nutrition, exercise, and health care pave the way for healthy bodies, healthy minds, and smart habits for adulthood.
- **An Effective Education** All children need the intellectual development, motivation and skills that equip them for successful work and lifelong learning. These result from having quality learning environments, challenging expectations and consistent guidance and mentoring.
- **Opportunities to Help Others** Opportunities to give back through community service enhance self-esteem, boost confidence and heighten a sense of responsibility to the community.



AMERICORPS VISTA PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

- Connect with your community.
- Conserve funds for charities, nonprofits and faith-based and other community organizations by contributing your time.
- Share your skills and gain new ones.
- Develop self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Meet new people from all walks of life.
- Enhance your resume and make important networking contacts.
- Promote a worthwhile activity.
- Feel needed and valued.
- Experience something new.



VISTA PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- **June 2010 to June 2011**, ten West Virginia's Promise AmeriCorps VISTA members generated the following resources for their communities:
- Number of new volunteers recruited: 952
- Total hours of service performed by community volunteers: 10,192
- Dollar value of cash resource developed: \$76,477.
- Dollar value of non-cash resources developed: \$74,194.



VISTA PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT – CONT.

- **June 2009 to June 2010**, five of West Virginia's Promise AmeriCorps VISTA members generated the following resources for their communities:
- Number of new volunteers recruited: 350
- Total hours of service performed by community volunteers: 6,428
- Dollar value of cash resources developed: \$27,581
- Dollar value of non-cash resources developed: \$46,569

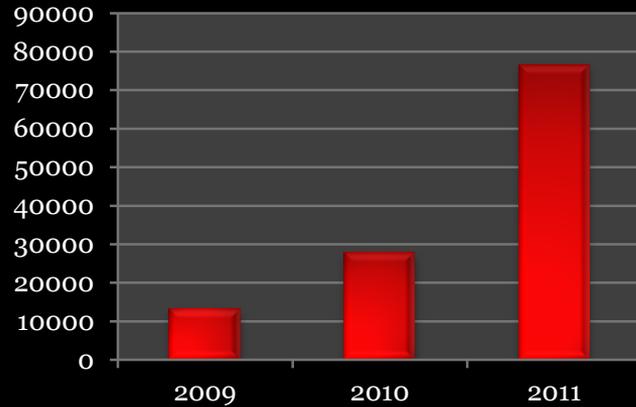


VISTA PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT – CONT.

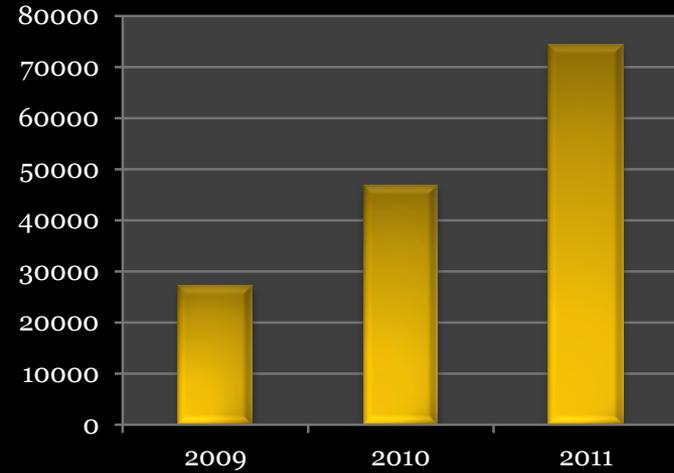


- **June 2008 to June 2009**, five West Virginia's Promise AmeriCorps VISTA members generated the following resources for their communities:
- Number of new volunteers recruited: 294
- Total hours of service performed by community volunteers: 2,143
- Dollar value of cash resources developed: \$13,100
- Dollar value of non-cash resources developed: \$27,091

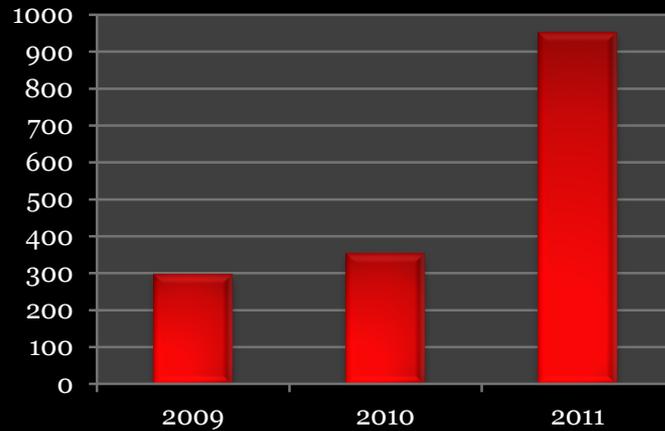
Cash Resources 2009-2011



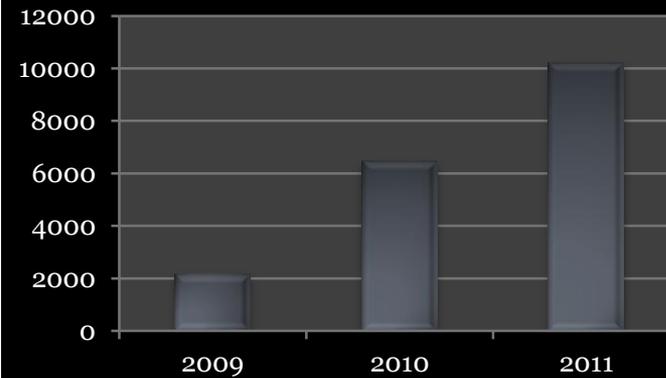
Non-Cash Resources



Volunteers 2009-2011



Total Hours of Service 2009-2011



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

MISSY STOREY— VISTA LEADER

Served: July 2010 – July 2011
VISTA Leader September 2011 to present
Host Site: Children's Home Society of West Virginia
County: Wood

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

I decided to become an AmeriCorps VISTA because I am passionate about the community that I live in and wanted to be a part of the great things going on.

2. During my term, I

have been able to meet key people in my community and make a difference in lives of other that I would not have been possible otherwise.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

MISSY STOREY— VISTA LEADER — CONT.

3. Who? What? Why? How?...made the biggest impact on me.

Being able to be a part of the Homeless Coalition has made the biggest impact on me. I was able to help prepare a homeless walk to simulate what that community goes through, I was able to see the “House “ that they created and built. I was able to talk to a few homeless individuals and really hear their point of views.

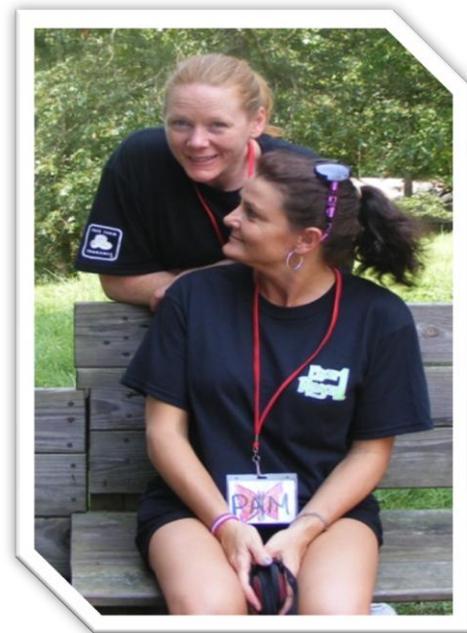


AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

MISSY STOREY— VISTA LEADER — CONT.

4. I've gained.....confidence in the work that I have been doing that it is truly making a difference in lives of others.
5. My future plans.... I have signed on for a third year as a VISTA.





AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

TAMMY KRUSE-VISTA

Served: September 2010 through September 2011 & present

VISTA Leader March 2011 through September 2011

Host Site: Youth Services System Inc.

County: Ohio



1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA...

After serving my first year and making a difference in the Wheeling community, I felt compelled to continue to make a difference and serve another year. The growth within the organization by connecting other organizations with Youth Services System Inc. has made a huge impact on the local at-risk youth along with youth in other West Virginia counties. VISTA's connect with other VISTA's to help make a difference.

2. During my term, I ...

feel as though my eyes are more focused on youth in my surroundings than they were in the past. I am more open minded to youth at play and their creativity and tend to be more generous with my 3 year old and his originality. Finishing my second year has made a remarkable impact on the way I look at the activities, health, safety and love that youth receive and are missing. I became a VISTA leader this term and have found that there's a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes that, as a VISTA, I didn't notice. Pam Dugan has her hands full every waking moment of every day. She has my utmost respect! I hope that I can continue to grow and learn the best routines and ways of handling things to make her work easier. I am still growing and I love it!

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

TAMMY KRUSE-VISTA

3. Who? What? Why? How? ...made the biggest impact on me.

The faith based organizations have made the biggest positive impression on me. The generosity, support, love and understanding that the people of different faiths host, have really come together in a parallel way when it comes to supporting youth and the Five Promises'. Religions might be different but that doesn't make a difference when they all strive for the good of children.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

TAMMY KRUSE— VISTA

4. I've gained.....so many new relationships with people and organizations. The wonderful people of Wheeling pour their love into their actions when they give their time and volunteer with the at-risk youth at YSS. I have also gained new friends with all of the VISTA's. Getting to know everyone and sharing time with them has made my life fuller. Thank you!

5. My future plans....I am signing up for my third and final year in September 2011. I love what I do!



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

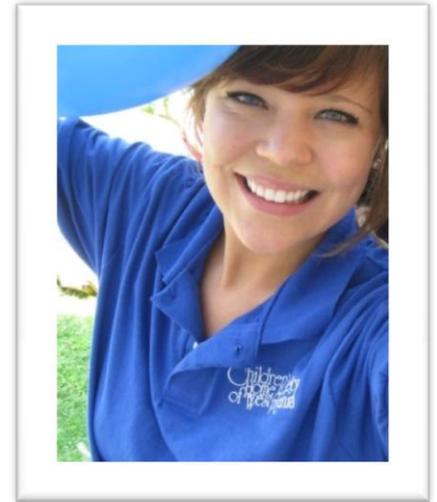
TAMMY KRUSE— VISTA



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

DANA MYSLINSKY— VISTA

Served: November 2010 to present
Host Site: Children's Home Society of West Virginia
Rock Lake Community Life Center
County: Kanawha



- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** Prior to my service as a Promise VISTA I was a member of the National Civilian Community Corps (AmeriCorps NCCC). Through the program I moved to Iowa and I spent ten months traveling through the Midwest in steel toe boots and military fatigues. During my journey, I built houses, served as a YMCA camp counselor, removed invasive species, learned the artful skill of chain sawing, and basically became a creative fit for whatever volunteer position was needed. Throughout my travels I fell in love with all the communities I had the opportunity to work in. Many of these places were small towns with huge personalities. This made me want to revisit my stomping grounds in West Virginia to continue another year of service as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA. West Virginia's Promise has been a perfect match for me. Through West Virginia's Promise, I've had the opportunity to give back to my roots and learn about all the spectacular opportunities West Virginia has for young adults. I would encourage any individual just out of college or high school to consider an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA position.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

DANA MYSLINSKY– VISTA

2. **During my term, I ...served as a Program Assistant for the WE CAN Mentoring Program.**

The program allows children to learn and grow through positive adult role models and their community. As a Program Assistant I am involved in: event planning, volunteer recruitment, marketing, and media development (just to name a few!) Through this position I've been able to develop myself professionally and personally. It has been a fantastic learning experience which will create a solid foundation for my life after AmeriCorps.

3. **Who? What? Why? How?...made the biggest impact on me.**

Moving to Charleston has made an impact on my life. The city's vibe really sucked me in. The Capital City is a culturally diverse community with friendly faces, endless entertainment, and delicious food. As a VISTA, I've really enjoyed learning from the city in which I serve in. The people I've met here have made a tremendous impact on my life.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

DANA MYSLINSKY – VISTA



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

DENVER SICAY- VISTA

Served: August 2010 to August 2011

Host Site: The Outdoor Education Center of For Love of Children

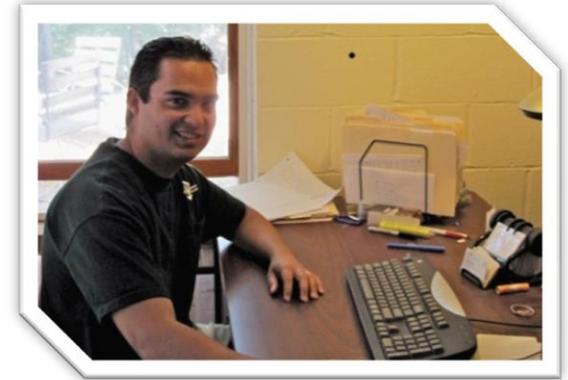
County: Jefferson

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA in order to help serve youth and their families. In addition, I wanted a chance to gain valuable life skills and work experience.

2. During my term, I

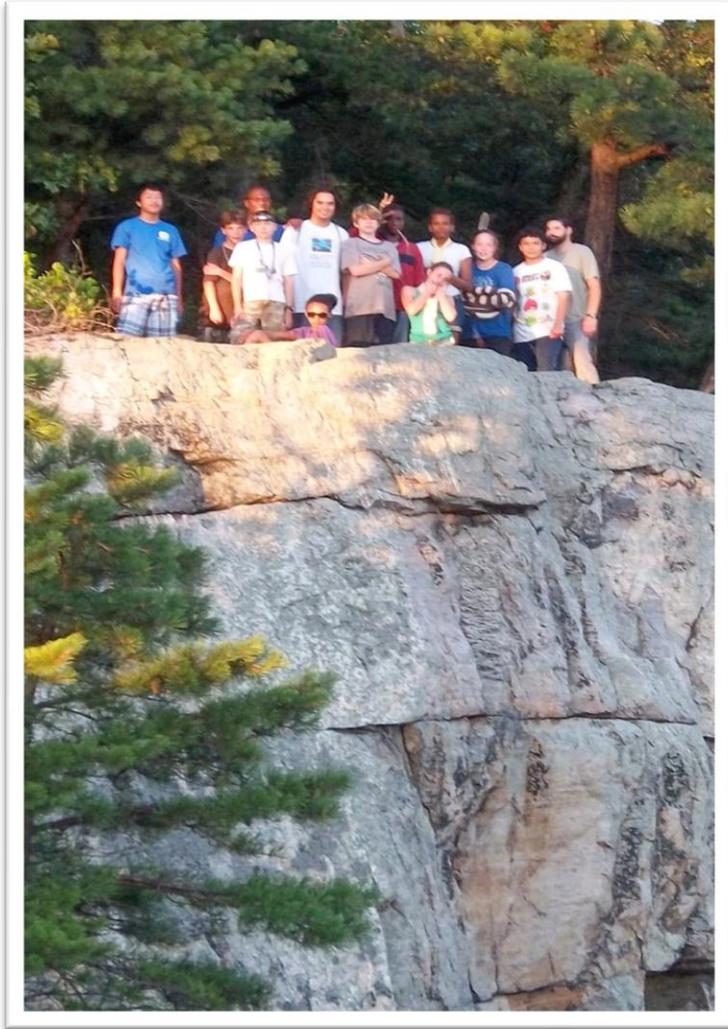
I received the opportunity to be involved in a wide variety of activities. My main responsibility was to sustain the Leaders in Action afterschool program at Harpers Ferry Middle School. In doing so, I helped in writing goals, outcomes, curriculum, as well as evaluations.



Other exciting events I was a part of included: recruiting at colleges such as James Madison University, fundraising at the Charles Town Farmers Market, providing outreach opportunities to the Girl Scouts, and even volunteering to be a science fair judge at Driswood Elementary School.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

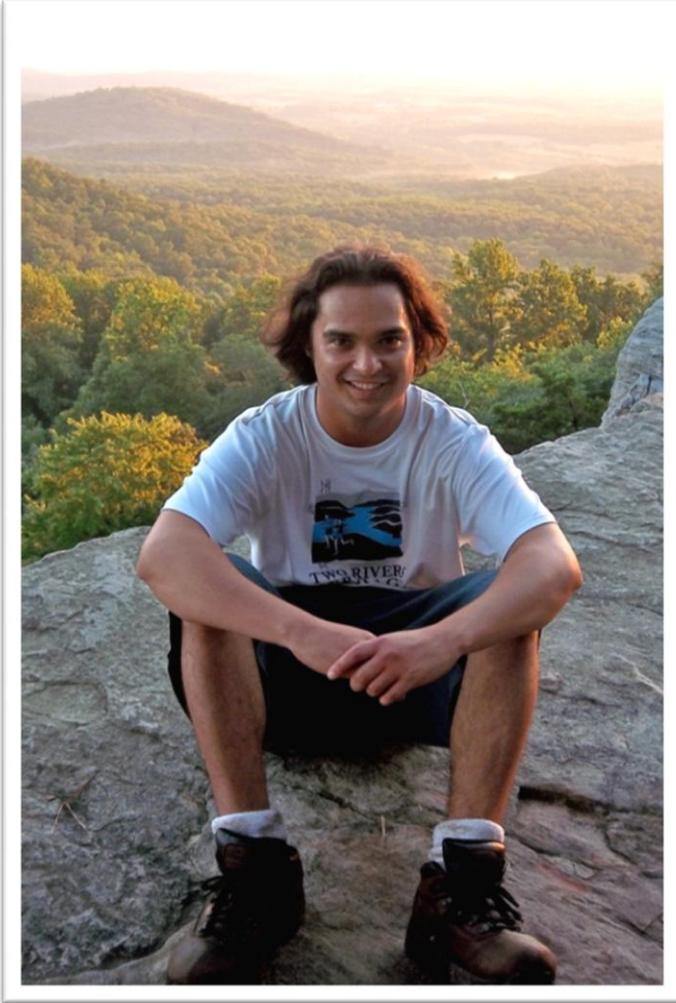
DENVER SICAY- VISTA-CONT.



From July 5th through July 8th, and July 11th through July 15th the Leaders in Action class as well as the DC Scholars Program visited the Outdoor Education Center to participate in a two-part Summer Adventure Camp. During the two weeks the children participated in a great deal of activities ranging from a field trip to the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center to hiking up to Sandy Springs! This picture was taken on top of Crescent Rock, where the students got the opportunity to enjoy a day of rock climbing!

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

DENVER SICAY- VISTA CONT.



3. Who? What? Why? How?...made the biggest impact on me.

The Staff at the Outdoor Education Center made the biggest impact on me during my VISTA experience. Before I came to West Virginia, I had never been much of an “outdoors” person. In fact I had never even gone on a camping trip! But the staff at the OEC was extremely helpful by including me in various outdoor sports and activities. Through their tremendous leadership skills, the staff truly showed me how amazing the great outdoors really are!

During the Leaders in Action and DC Scholars Summer Adventure Camp, I received the opportunity to help lead an evening hike up to Crescent Rock! This picture was taken of me once we reached the top.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

DENVER SICAY- CONT.

4. I've gained.....

Through my AmeriCorps experience I have gained a great deal of confidence. Because I was able to be involved in so many different projects and activities, I feel more comfortable stepping up to be a leader in future situations.

On June 3rd, For Love of Children held its annual Recognition Event at The True Reformer Building in Washington D.C. Awards and recognitions were given to various students who participated and excelled in FLOC Programs. Leaders in Action was well represented by having two of their finest students, Noah and Holly. After the event, Noah and I are seen here relaxing and enjoying a slice of delicious pizza.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

DENVER SICAY- CONT.

5. My future plans....

This spring I was nominated to serve in the United States Peace Corps as a Youth and Community Development Volunteer in Sub-Saharan Africa for 27-months. If I am invited, my main responsibility will be to teach environmental education at the local primary and secondary schools. Eventually I plan on going back to school to get my Masters Degree in Conflict Resolution in order to begin a career as an educator.

This is a picture of the entire Leaders in Action class at our field trip to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park on February 16th. During the event, the children had an exciting afternoon full of activities such as a presentation on the history of Harpers Ferry, a map location race, and even a scavenger hunt!



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

LYDIA HASTINGS-VISTA

Served: **August 2010 to August 2011**

Host Site: **The Outdoor Education Center of For Love of Children**

County: **Jefferson**

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA to help ensure that children within our community's borders would have a chance to experience nature and learn about environmental issues that are relevant to our time. With several statistical findings indicating that so many of our youth spend the majority of their free time inside and secluded from nature, I strongly identified with the mission and the ideas that surrounded this organization. I joined AmeriCorps to help bring a different view to youth within our community and to ensure understanding and awareness for years to come.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

LYDIA HASTINGS— VISTA



While participating in a training program at the OEC's high ropes, VISTA member Lydia Hastings, traverse a cable to reach a stationary platform where an OEC staff member, Kevin Hughes, waits.

2. During my term, IDuring my term, I have helped establish various platforms for creating open communication between *The Outdoor Education Center* and the general public. I have worked to improve monitoring of community outreach as well as expanding current outreach components. I have also had a hand in enhancing existing programs within *The Outdoor Education Center's* spectrum by facilitating the growth and expansion of various curriculums. Throughout my term here at *The Outdoor Education Center* I have been afforded the opportunity to interact with the community and help broadening awareness of the nonprofit's mission through various events, such as Science Fairs, Earth Day events, Camp Expositions, and a county wide Science Olympiad. By having this experience I have had the opportunity to be more engaged with my community and meet many of its' members.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

LYDIA HASTINGS— VISTA – CONT.

3. Who? What? Why? How?made the biggest impact on me.

The children that The Outdoor Education Center (OEC) serves have made the biggest impact on me. Throughout the year I have been able to watch them grow and develop into stewards of the land through the programming they received at the OEC. Through their eyes I have been able to see the companion they share for learning, understanding and caring, not only about the matters presented to them through the OEC but also towards each other.

These students have shown tremendous revelations throughout their time being with the OEC. They continue to be enthusiastic about the messages they receive and time they spend while with the OEC.



After work hours, VISTA member, Lydia Hastings, enjoys the opportunity to interact with summer campers and staff members as they finish their day with a sunset hike to Crescent Rocks overlook.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

LYDIA HASTINGS— VISTA – CONT.



4. I've gained.....

I have gained valuable insight into how a non-profit can run efficiently. Looking back over the past year I have seen the ups and downs of working at a seasonal nonprofit and how efficiently things could run given the proper leadership and ingenuity. I have been able to explore various leadership styles and have seen how meshing of minds can create a diverse kaleidoscope of passionate individuals.

Leaders in action students were introduced to farming for the community at Claymont Farms. Here Claymont Farms runs a Community Supported Agriculture business where students were thought about different gardening practices and later was able to help plant potatoes in one of the fields. VISTA member, Lydia Hastings, helps pass out potatoes for students to plant.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

LYDIA HASTINGS— VISTA — CONT.

5. My future plans....

My future plans are to go back to school for a Masters in Public Health, with a focus on Nutrition. I would like to continue helping communities around the country by being able to educate individuals on the importance of healthy eating as well as conduct research into health concerns in various demographics.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

Wilma Phillips- VISTA

Served: February 2011 to September 2011

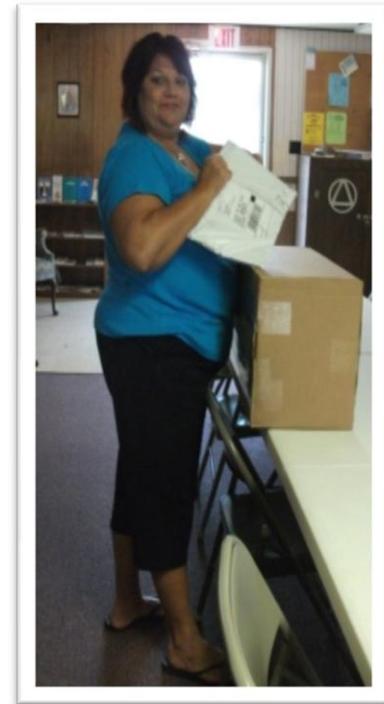
Host Site: Family Resource Network

County: Taylor

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA.....

because I look at myself as a people person who doesn't know a stranger and can talk to anyone no matter what gender or color they may be. I have a deep passionate for those who may not be able to help themselves or maybe they can, but just don't know how. A year of service to help children, families in my community means a lot to me.

2. During my term..... I became the proud VISTA Coordinator for Taylor County **Project HOP2E** which means under the **HELP OUR PEOPLE 2 EAT**, under the instruction of the TCCFRN director Walesa Marrero. It is a wonderful program that focuses on families that are less fortunate than others and have been able to provide assistance by introducing many families to our TCPH Mobile Food Pantry. It is not based on income it is first come first serve. Every month our goal is to help increase the numbers of families who we help provide food for. We do this by collecting community resources such as food drives, Mountaineer Food Bank and monetary donations. Many flyers are posted and emailed that announce where and what time the pantry will be each month.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

WILMA PHILLIPS –VISTA-CONT.



3. Who? What? Why? How?...made the biggest impact on me. One of my big projects has been to coordinate and plan the annual back pack out reach. Every year the goal for back packs is increased due to the community demand. This year I have been able to increase it from 250 to 350 thanks to the entire community donation and all the volunteer help. Thanks to my volunteers who help me plan for this event we are now able to set up table with providers who will donate their services.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

WILMA PHILLIPS- VISTA-CONT.

4. I've gained.....

Self-confidence, self- respect, the first impression says a lot about who you are. I have also learned to communicate with my community.



5. My future plans... Are to continue to help others in the best way I know how, and to continue to be the person that have become through this experience

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

LISA COX— VISTA

Served: February 2011 through February 2012

Host Site: Morgan County Starting Points

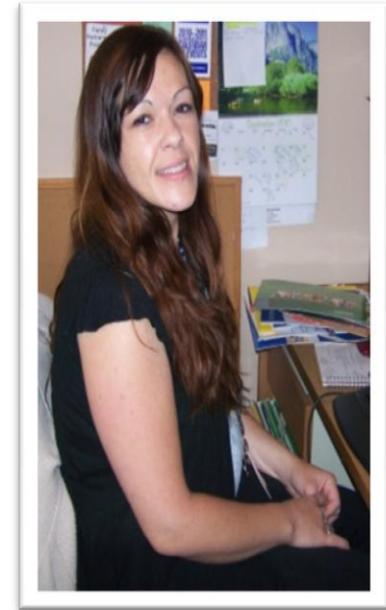
County: Morgan

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

I decided to become an AmeriCorps VISTA because I had just finished my Associates Degree and could not afford to further my education. I knew as a VISTA I could receive an education award and continue to build work experience by gaining skills, knowledge, and furthering my abilities. I also wanted the chance to network within my community and have the opportunity to voice my opinion and vision to matters that are important to me.

2. During my term, I

Assisted with every opportunity that came my way, which would overwhelm me occasionally, but opened the doorway that lead me to gaining an abundance of experiences and opportunities one normally is not given.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

LISA COX— VISTA CONT.

3. Who? What? Why? How?..... made the biggest impact on me.

I have been impacted the most by my experiences from working with youth, particularly the teenagers from Teen Group. Serving on the Advisory Board as well as mentoring the teens has been very rewarding and worthwhile. My greatest success comes from witnessing a male teen transform from a life of selling drugs to building enough self-worth to begin college in the fall.

4. I've gained.....

Self-worth and esteem through this opportunity. This experience has enriched my life through meeting many wonderful people and by gaining a hands on training that has broaden my skills, knowledge and abilities in the career area I wish to enter.

5. My future plans....

I plan to continue working with troubled youth in areas that include but are not limited to; risky behaviors, teen pregnancy and dropout prevention. I hope to incorporate my education, training, and learning experiences to reach out and connect to troubled youth by guiding them to stay on a positive path and overcome barriers that tend to send many in a wayward direction.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

ANNE KLEM – VISTA

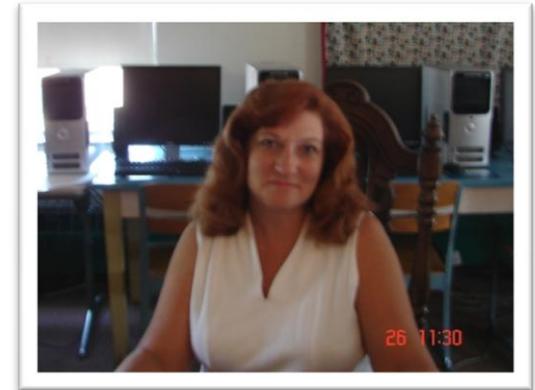
Served: May 2010 through August 2012
Host Site: The Youth Club of Marshall County
County: Marshall

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA...

I saw the good work the Youth Club has been doing and was excited to be offered the opportunity to be a part of something that benefitted and supported all youth of our community.

2. During my term, I

have learned much; have been able to benefit others with my experience; boost my programs connections and networking ability; help raise funds; expand our partnerships with area schools; and raise awareness in the community about the strengths of our program.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

ANNE KLEM – VISTA – CONT.

- 3. Who? What? Why? How?...made the biggest impact on me...**Seeing the growth and development of one of our participants who is an extraordinary person.
- 4. I've gained.....**knowledge, friendships, and insight into the needs of our youth.
- 5. My future plans....**to finish my college degree and work in some area where I can continue to help young people empower themselves in positive directions.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

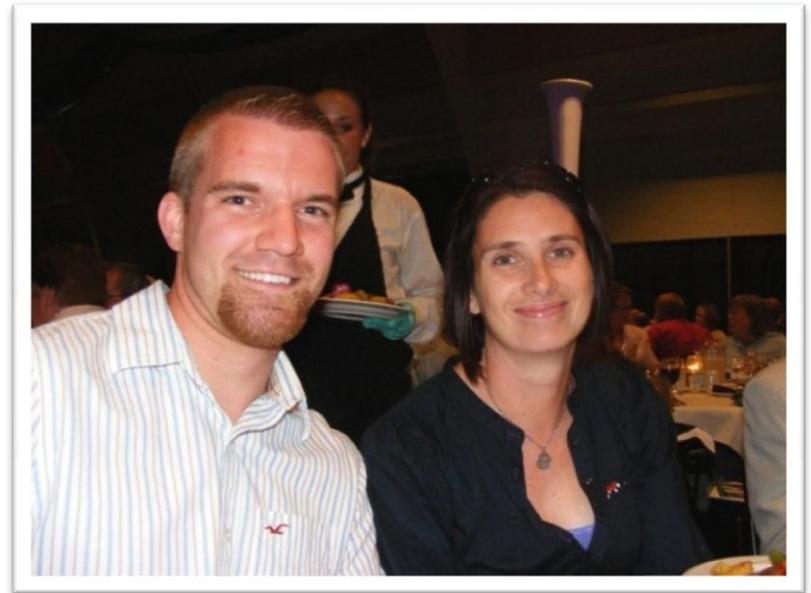
VISTA Name: Aaron Lopreste

Host Site: Children's Home Society of West Virginia

County: Wood County

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

My initial attraction to becoming an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA was the opportunity to serve others and work with my strengths and abilities to make a real difference in others' lives. I also desired to have the opportunity to work with local youth and provide a safe environment while offering friendship, support, and a good role model for kids.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Aaron Lopreste

This is an activity that I created for the kids which combines physical activity, teamwork, and learning how they can recycle common items that most households throw away. There were two teams which each had a large bucket of random items including trash (non recyclables), cardboard, glass, plastic, paper, and aluminum. One team member would run with 1 item to the other end of the course which had 3 empty bins set up which you can see in the picture. They were sorted by paper, plastics, and aluminum. After they had crushed the item (When appropriate in order to take up less space this represented the “Reduce” aspect of the “Reduce Reuse, Recycle” Model), they would place it in the correct bin, run back to their team and tag the next runner. With an equal amount of items in each bin this recycling relay race allowed for fun and competition while providing educational benefits and teamwork. (Back left: Me officiating while Connor-front left and P.J.-front right run back to their teams after recycling their items.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Aaron Lopreste

2. During my term IBefore the summer program began I helped to clean and organize the facility at Children's Home Society, and attended a training session held in Charleston for new VISTA employees. I also made a daily schedule for the 6 week program along with my fellow summer VISTA Angela Lilly, and my supervisor Lisa Weaver. I have had the opportunity to work with youth ages 8-17 on a daily basis. Our summer feeding program is focused on providing students that receive free or reduced cost meals at school with a free lunch and snack each day. It runs from 12:00pm-4:00pm and has time blocks that include lunch, group academic enrichment activities/individual tutoring, indoor/outdoor recreation, field trips, snack, and free time. Some of the field trips that we have made possible include trips to the Parkersburg City Park for mini golf, Mountwood Park, tours of the Parkersburg Art Center, Plastic Recycling Center, and we hosted a Karaoke and Career day at our site. I have also worked at the Each One Reach One Camp, The Second Annual 'Shindig' concert (Our fundraiser for Children's Home Society), McKinley Elementary organizing school supplies for all the teachers, and plan on attending the Faces of Leadership Conference in Charleston.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Aaron Lopreste



Here is a picture of me teaching a lesson on calories and the food we eat. The kids are filling out an activity which helps them to look at exactly what they ate the day before and which food groups their diet is not adequately providing for. We not only reviewed the food groups but their average daily diet, the importance of calories and monitoring their intake, and common caloric amounts of fast food items such as French fries. Back row of the table left to right (faces you can see): Trenton, P.J., Adam, Stephanie, Stacy. Front row left to right: Robert, Josh, David, Ean, James, Evelyn Front left: Me teaching

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Aaron Lopreste

3. Who? What? Why? How?...made the biggest impact on me. The focus of our work should always be on those whom we serve. Therefore the youth have made the biggest impact on me as I have learned much from them. Not only their strengths, but more importantly their weaknesses, which allows me to focus my work on building them up to be more effective and active members of their community and society in general. Another inspiration I found was realized when I had the opportunity to collaborate with other VISTA members at the Each One Reach One Camp. The desire and drive of all those I was able to work with astounded me, and made me very grateful that I was working with this program.

This picture is a community service activity in which we are rolling up old newspapers for the local humane society. This was to show the kids the “Reuse” aspect of the “Reduce Reuse Recycle” Model. These papers will be used for the floors of the animals’ cages and shelters. (From left to right: Aaron, Kayla, Stephanie, James, Austi, Robert, Trenton, P.J.)



4. I've gained.....

A better understanding of how AmeriCorps Promise VISTAs can work to help in not only their local community but around the entire state. The fact that I have been able to collaborate with other VISTAs, VISTA leaders, and others across the state in joint efforts for not only this but other programs/events has given me the belief that this program is truly making a significant difference in the lives of our youth today across West Virginia.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Aaron Lopreste

5. My future plans....

I plan to continue my college education at Marietta College this coming fall and spring, pursuing my degree in Sports Medicine.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

VISTA Name: Amos Green

Host Site: For Love of Children Outdoor Education Center

County: Jefferson

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

I wished to have a more eventful summer this year and seeing that there was an opportunity to serve others while doing the job I love best I decided to apply for this position in particular. After working as a counselor at For Love of Children's Outdoor Education Center this was something different. Sharing knowledge and experiencing the outdoors is a passion of mine and with this job I was able to expose youth and myself to learning situations.

2. During my term, I

During my term I helped educate the youth, primarily from FLOC's Leaders in the Making, about outdoor stewardship and encouraged them to extend their knowledge for the outdoors. I was also a facilitator for a lot of the youth's teambuilding activities such as high ropes and low ropes.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. After just having reached the legal age of 18, the amount of responsibility has changed for me. Becoming liable for the safety and well being of another human being was a great change for me. Learning to plan and to make sure everything well thought... In essence being given the power to oversee activities and have the ability to control their outcomes was new for me.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

4. I've gained.....

This heightened amount of responsibility was beneficial for me because of the exposure to situations where I had to call the shots. Being on the younger end of the staff I was always used to people telling me what to do and how things should be done. Therefore I've gained experience in the real world and have greatly learned the important lesson of good planning and executing.

5. My future plans....

I plan on attending Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, this fall. Currently my major is undecided, but I plan to continue a lifelong service to the youth and the environment wherever I may go.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

VISTA Name: **Angela Lilly**

Host Site: **Children's Home Society of WV**

County: **Wood**

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA

Serving as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA gave me the ability to remain in service at Children's Home Society of WV (CHS) in Parkersburg where I have had the opportunity to work in the McKinley Afterschool Program with Lisa Weaver and Shauna Kelley. During my year here, I have witnessed a wide variety of overwhelming needs in this community. It has been my honor to be of service to one of a network of organizations putting forth great efforts to remedy and support the needs of Parkersburg and surrounding areas.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Angela Lilly

2. During my time, I... As a Summer Associate VISTA, I worked alongside VISTA, Aaron Lopreste, and Workforce WV youth employees, Austi Reed and Kayla Brinker, in the Summer Youth Program in the Mid-town Family Resource Center. This program is designed to ensure that any school-age child who has a need for a nutritious meal can be served a free healthy lunch during the summer, while providing educational activities to keep students in the habit of learning in a social, academic setting. There is also an element of daily physical activity through the partnership with McKinley Elementary providing access to their playground.

Tour of the Parkersburg Art Center
Back row: Zac, Kara, Josh, Ryan,
James, Robbie, John, Clayton
Third Row: PJ, Kayla Brinker,
Stephanie, Adam, Michael
Second Row: Dominic, Trenton,
Conner
Front Row: James, Carlee



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Angela Lilly

In addition to the daily routine, we organized a calendar with community involvement themes that included several service projects, local field trips, invited guest speakers, and other special events. A major theme this summer was recycling. Following a child led discussion of ways kids and their families can be involved in “reducing, reusing, and recycling”, J.D. Duley gave us a tour of the Parkersburg Recycling Center. Mr. Duley explained what could and could not be recycled, how things are recycled, and what can be made from recycled materials. After the tour the kids participated in relays crushing and sorting recyclable materials, and have continued recycling lunch and snack materials daily. The children were involved in recycling juice pouches and soda cans, and tabs. Through the recycling of the juice pouches and tabs the kids will have the opportunity to select among several charities they wish to donate the funds received from recycling. Some of the other events our program offered was a Karaoke day, generously hosted by Rob Goff, a tour of the Parkersburg Art Center, led by Abby Hayhurst, a day at Mountwood Park with lunch that the children helped plan and prepare, and a Career Day where the kids helped to contact speakers and planned the day. The Career Day featured local employees including race car driver- Dan Morrison, a police officer from the Parkersburg Police Department, social worker- Travis Smith, involved with CHS Transitional Living Program and Workforce WV, and musician Aaron Whited, who is also employed by CHS. Every Tuesday during the summer program Mary Farnsworth, a Girl Scout leader, would collaborate with the staff to organize and lead science, art, and team-building activities.



Mary Farnsworth is holding a boat-building contest among the children to compare which boats float the most pennies. The children learned concepts to design and build aluminum foil boat that would float as many as 50 pennies.

Clockwise from left to right: Conner, Josh, Robbie, Mary Farnsworth, PJ, John

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Angela Lilly

3. Who? What? Why? How?...made the biggest impact on me.

I am thoroughly impressed and inspired by the efforts of the employees, volunteers, and affiliates of Children's Home Society network. This group works tirelessly to improve the livelihoods of the people in this community. For the past three summers this organization has offered the Summer Youth Program. This program has aided parents in the ability to work while their children attend and learn: how they are a vital part of the community, ways in which they can receive and give support, and ways they can positively back to their community.

Students are encouraged to participate and learn in all activities and rewarded weekly with free new books offered through First Book in connection with Missy Storey, the third-year AmeriCorps VISTA. CHS and the Summer Youth Program try to promote information and resources to the families of the children who attend the program. It is the goal of the organization to make the community aware of what is available to them, to provide food and clothing, parenting classes to expecting, new, and seasoned parents, finding roles for volunteers in the community, and so much more to those in need.



Clayton and Josh are participating in the Neighborhood Clean-up by pulling weeds outside of McKinley Elementary.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Angela Lilly

4. I have gained...

As a Summer Associate, I have gained the opportunity to meet and interact with other VISTAs serving throughout the state at events including the CHS hosted Shindig, organized by Missy Storey, Each One Reach One mentoring camp led by WV Five Promises State Director, Pamela Dugan. I am very excited to be attending the Faces of Leadership Conference sponsored through AmeriCorps and WV Five Promises. This conference will feature several workshops and internationally acclaimed speakers.

5. My future plans are...

In the future, I plan to serve another year at Children's Home Society as an AmeriCorps VISTA. I hope to save up to attend graduate school within the next few years; the Education Stipend will be a great help towards this goal.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

VISTA Name: Brittany Gaylor

Host Site: Hovah Children's Home - WE CAN

County: Cabell

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

I wanted to learn more about the job, and get to experience what they do.

2. During my term, I

Got to attend a picnic at Barboursville Park, and interact and meet most of the kids and staff. I've got to teach the kids how to make bracelets, which most enjoyed. I've attended an ice cream social held at the shelter.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. Seeing, and hearing the stories of some of the children made me realize what some people go through. It made me open my eyes and be more aware of the things people could do to help kids in situations such as these.

4. I've gained.....

More knowledge on the program, and realized what it would be like, and the other things I could experience if I continued my job at Children's Home Society.

5. My future plans....

Could possibly include me getting a degree in Social Work or something that involved me working with children.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

VISTA Name: Deeanna Cecil

Host Site: Youth Club of Marshall County

County: Marshall

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA because I wanted the experience of working with the youth. I am going to school for an education degree and want to work with high school students. This gave me great experience to make sure this is what I wanted to do for a living.

2. During my term, I

During my term, I worked with fifteen youth, providing breakfast and lunch for them, mentored/tutored them daily, and also taught them how to have fun even when working and volunteering to help others.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. The youth made the biggest impact on me because they were always so cheerful no matter what we were doing for the day, even if it was ten pages of math. They were sad when the program ended and want me to come back as often as I can.

4. I've gained.....

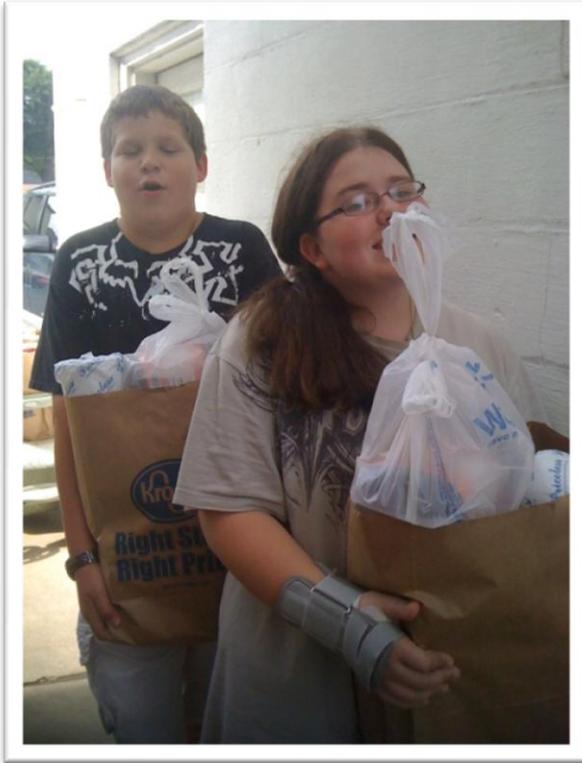
I have gained great experience while working with the youth.

5. My future plans....

My future plans are to finish college with my education degree, to get my masters in education, and then teach mathematics to high school students.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Deeanna Cecil



The two youths are carrying bags for the house of the carpenter II in Moundville. I was teaching the youth about volunteering and helping people in need. Their names are Kaitlynn Best and Derian Tolpa.



Deidre Barlip, Kaitlynn Best, Danny Hubbs, and Rachel Walters. It was a fun day for the youth. They learned about pH levels while also getting to swim for the day. They seemed to enjoy it very much.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

VISTA Name: Jeannette Lewis

Host Site: Children's Home Society of WV Martinsburg

County: Berkeley

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I

was volunteering at CHS anyway and am unemployed. It seemed a good fit. I could continue to help with the database and other needs that they had and be able to put in more hours helping.

2. During my term, Iam continuing to work the bugs out of the database I created for them, and creating forms and reports.

I have gotten the blog (that was sitting there) going and am keeping the facebook page current including posting pictures of progress of the new location. Unfortunately, since my first few weeks we have been in the middle of moving I have not been able to be involved with WE CAN as much as I would like. I'm hoping that will change once the dust settles.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Jeannette Lewis

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. Nick has really made the biggest impact at this point. Everyone is so busy and although I have asked everyone for a blurb on their job description, he is one out of two who have followed through. He also said that until after the move he was too busy to tutor me on administrating the blog and yet he has taken time several times to help me with questions. He always is friendly and smiling and helpful.



Nick Trietsch, he has been my mentor for learning how to do our blog

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Jeannette Lewis

4. I've gained.....friends. Also respect for all that is done to help children find homes or other things they are not receiving that we take for granted, such as mentoring.

5. My future plans....I am continuing to job hunt. I am also working with WV Rehab Service to see if I will qualify for some help through them. My Assoc. Degree is in IT and I would love to use it in a teaching/training capacity. I often joke that I am a "Jane of all trades and Mistress of none" because I have so many different talents. But foremost, I would like to be using my teaching skills in some capacity.



Nick Trietsch and Deb Barthlow in the first room in our new upstairs to be done... totally painted and ready to be organized. Considering that all the rooms had 5-6 layers of wallpaper that had to be stripped, this is quite an accomplishment!



The Adoption Library which I have been organizing in the new location. It is the first room to get put together.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Jeannette Lewis

Our brand new ramp! I am very happy to see that we are now handicap accessible.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

VISTA Name: **Juston Donadieu**

Host Site: **Morgan Co. Starting Points**

County: **Morgan County**

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I was interested in gaining organizational experience while also spending a summer doing something of real meaning, rather than simply working and relaxing for 3 months.

2. During my term, II coordinated an effort to supply at-risk children with 2 extra meals per week, plus hygiene products and educational material, at our local Energy Express program. I tracked down resources and cooperated with local daycare centers for a literacy program to put free books in the hands of parents and their children, age's birth to 5. I organized and executed a 3-on-3 youth basketball tournament to promote healthy life choices and physical fitness. I worked alongside a local church to coordinate a back-to-school clothing and school supply drive. I led the weekly "playgroup" once at Starting Points and talked to parents about local family resources.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Juston Donadieu

3. Who? What? Why? How?...made the biggest impact on me. The children at Energy Express made the biggest impact on me. They reminded me what life is like as a kid, and that this young generation is capable of a lot more than we often give them credit for. Someday soon they'll be the ones running this community, this country, and this world, and it is our job now to see to it they grow up in a decent environment.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Juston Donadieu

- 4. I've gained.....**I'm thankful for the things I will walk away with after this experience. Increased wisdom and humility from the people and situations I have become involved in, experience at an organizational level, and responsibility for making things happen the right way at the right time; these are all things I've gained being a VISTA this Summer.
- 5. My future plans....** I plan on graduating from Marshall University in May, 2012 and pursuing a career in communications. The future is largely undecided for me, and so I may find myself serving with AmeriCorps in coming years.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

VISTA Name: Kevin Close
Host Site: Starting Points
County: Morgan

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

My friend Juston told me about AmeriCorps, the opportunities that could arise from joining, as well as the education award I receive. I decided to serve to give back to the community in a way I never truly have before, and to receive the scholarship to assist with my college finances. Dedicating my summer to bettering the lives of other kids is an opportunity I couldn't pass up.

2. During my term, I

I learned a lot about myself during my time as a VISTA, but I also gained a better perspective on the realities that communities face on a daily basis. The eye opening information I gained from this experience has taught me of the troubles that teens face, whether it be poverty, drugs, alcohol, or abuse. However, I was given the opportunity to try to improve the lives of those kids, and that was true blessing.



Juston Donadieu and I were planning for our 3 on 3 basketball tournament for the youth in our community.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Kevin Close

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.

Seeing the smiling faces of the children that I was blessed enough to work with made a huge impact on myself. After reading a book to a playgroup, as well as playing in a nearby stream, the happiness that shone from their vibrant faces was enough to fill my heart with a sense of joy and fulfillment.



I'm addressing a church playgroup, along with their parents, that I just got done playing with in a local stream, and giving them a brief summary of being a VISTA for the summer.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Kevin Close

4. I've gained.....

I've gained an abundance of knowledge this summer, whether it be about the community and its struggles, or ways in which those problems can be faced head on. Through this experience, I feel confident about future endeavors that I will face because of the unpredictability and challenges that were presented to me.

5. My future plans....

I plan to serve the communities of West Virginia in the future, and help struggling individuals through whatever situations they face. I'm sure to meet an array of new people as I attend college this fall; my goal is to help them in anyway that I can. Serving is done one step at a time, so If I can make a difference in one person's life through my college career, progress will have been made.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

VISTA Name: **Maria Almase**

Host Site: **Children's Home Society of West Virginia**

County: **Monongalia County**

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

I was dissatisfied with my career and wanted to become more deeply involved with my community. I had always volunteered or donated my time or money, but I had never taken the opportunity to really engage in any one cause. I decided to serve as a VISTA in the hopes that I would learn more about my abilities and long-term goals.



From left to right: Kayla,
Jalynn, and Sophia

From left to right, back row:
Jalynn Keyser (Summer
Volunteer), Maria Almase
(AmeriCorps VISTA). Front
row: Caleb and Madeline
Satterfield (children of social
worker Tracie Satterfield)



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Maria Almase

2. During my term, I

Met so many great people and amazing children. I helped with recruitment and discovered that, while individuals can make a dramatic impact, it really does take a village to come together and make a difference. The Children's Home Society has so many wonderful people working and volunteering at its office, but our cause really does depend on the rest of our community to become involved.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.

Coordinating our weekly reading program and working with the children had the greatest impact on me. I had a great time planning our sessions and providing fun and educational activities for the children, and it was so rewarding to see how much the children enjoyed these evenings.

4. I've gained.....

An immense appreciation for the commitment of the staff, volunteers, and families of the Children's Home Society. Without these people ready and willing to go above and beyond in the lives of the children they serve, I can only imagine where these children would be today.

5. My future plans....

I plan to continue as a VISTA at the Morgantown office for another year, where I will continue to be involved with recruitment, fundraising, and the reading program. I am also planning to begin the process of becoming a mentor to one of the children at the Society. This experience has also been a major factor in my decision to go back to school to become a teacher.

I have also learned a great deal about my own commitment and ability to make a difference.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

VISTA Name: Stephanie Tanner

Host Site: CHS Princeton WV

County: Mercer

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

When I first heard about becoming a VISTA, my initial thought was, "This would look wonderful on my resume."

Now that my service time is ending, I realize I became a VISTA for a much better reason than a good resume builder.

The main reason I became a VISTA, was to help at-risk youth. I am on the path of obtaining a degree in elementary and special education, because of my love for children. Yes, being a VISTA will look wonderful on my resume, but the experience I have gained from being a VISTA is so much greater than words on a piece of paper.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Stephanie Tanner

- 2. During my term, I** During my term, I had several small tasks to complete, and one **major** task to complete. My major job was to produce the yearly scavenger hunt. I was required to do *everything* for this project, like deciding where, finding prizes, making the hunt, making the flyers, etc. The scavenger hunt was on July 9th, and went exceptionally well. I based the hunt on the 5 promises of the WV Promise, dividing them into separate sections. All the items to be found/completed, dealt with the promise it was under.

I wanted this event to be huge, so I went out asking for donations almost every day. Total, the program was donated 6 \$10 Kroger gift cards, 2 \$25 Wal-Mart gift cards, 1 \$25 Sam's Club gift card, 2 tickets to see Josh Turner in Concert, 3 tickets to the concert Rock the 2 VA's, 2 Summit Theatre tickets and 2 meals at Impression's Bistro, 2 tickets to the Exhibition Coal Mine and 2 meals at IHOP, a month of free music lessons from Stages Music School, 2 tickets to see live wrestling and a meal at the Ramsey, pens from City National Bank, 4 tickets to the Carmike Theatre, a free 5 gallon fill up of a drink at McDonald's, 30 pool passes to the Princeton Pool, 60 passes for bowling, about 100 passes to mini-golf, 50 free ice cream passes, a whole pack of free kid meal vouchers from Texas steakhouse and Chick-fil-A, tours of WVVA, Bluefield Daily Telegraph, and Adventure Radio, and last but not least, 2 free meals to the Country Valley Kitchen in Bluefield. Having all of these prizes (or as I like to call outings and experiences for the children), really helped to provide a wonderful time for the kids.

The scavenger hunt started at 11am with a cookout, 12pm was the hunt, 3pm was meet up time at the pool, and after the pool there was a free movie playing at Concord University. I really enjoyed putting together and running the scavenger hunt, I just wish more people would have showed up to the wonderful event.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2011-AUGUST 2011

Stephanie Tanner

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. Angela Fedele made the biggest impact on me, because she taught me so much about the program and life itself. It was such a good experience to work under her, because she really knows her stuff. I will really miss Angela, and thanks to her, I will take so much away from this experience.

4. I've gained.....

Being a VISTA has taught me so much about life itself. Not only will this experience help me every day, but it will especially help me when I begin my career as a teacher. Nothing makes me happier than to see children who come from bad homes enjoying themselves by doing something productive and active. The scavenger hunt I created was a wonderful experience for the children that showed up. It taught them a lot, while also keeping them active, AND most importantly they had so much fun doing it.

5. My future plans....

My future has so much in store for me. I will never stop volunteering, because of the feeling I obtain from it. I love feeling like I made a difference in someone's life, so I will continue throughout my life, serving in some manner. Whether it is volunteering for children, animals, or homeless shelters, I will always continue to serve.

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project

County: Wood

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA Leader: Missy Storey

Email: mstorey@childhswv.org

Site Supervisor: Shelley Plauche'

Email: splauche@childhswv.org

Chief Executive Officer: Steve Tuck

Email: stuck@childhswv.org

Children's Home Society of West Virginia

PO Box 763

Parkersburg, WV 26102

Phone 304-485-0650

Fax 304-485-0618

<http://www.childhswv.org/index.htm>

County: Wood

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Angela Lilly

Email: angela.lilly84@gmail.com

Site Supervisor: Lisa Weaver

Email: lweaver@childhswv.org

Chief Executive Officer: Steve Tuck

Email: stuck@childhswv.org

Children's Home Society of West Virginia

PO Box 763

Parkersburg, WV 26102

Phone 304-485-0650

Fax 304-485-0618

<http://www.childhswv.org/index.htm>

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont.

County: Berkeley

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: *recruiting*

Email: uwepvis@comcast.net

Site Supervisor: Kathy Olson

Email: kolson@uwayep.org

Family Resource Network of the Panhandle

218 W. King St.

Martinsburg, WV

Phone: 304-263-0603 X 228

Fax: 304-263-0614

<http://familyresourcenetworkottp.org>

County: Jefferson

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Denver Sicay

Email: denver.sicay@gmail.com

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Lydia Hastings

Email: lydia.hastings@gmail.com

Site Supervisor: Rob Stull & Katie Nolan

Email: rstull@floc.org

Email: knolan@floc.org

Executive Director: Tim Payne

FLOC For Love of Children, Outdoor Education Center

671 FLOC Way

Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Phone: 304-725-0409

Fax: 304-728-7565

<http://www.flocoutdoors.org>

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont.

County: Wayne

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: *recruiting*

Site Supervisor: Nikki Thomas

Email: nikkiforgirls@yahoo.com

Director: Renee Harrison

Email:

Golden Girls Group Home

999 B Street

Ceredo, WV 25507

Phone: 304-453-6273

Fax: 304-453-6273

<http://www.gggh.org/index.html>

County: Jefferson

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: *recruiting*

Site Supervisor: Catherine Bragaw

Email: Catherine_Bragaw@nps.gov

Director: Rebecca Harriett

Email:

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

PO Box 65

Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Phone: 304-535-6230

Fax: 304-535-6244

<http://www.nps.gov/hafe/index.htm>

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont.

County: Marion

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA:

Email:

Site Supervisor: Lauren Prinzo

Email: marioncountyfrn@yahoo.com

Marion County Family Resource Center

112 Adams Street, Room 204

Fairmont, WV 26554

Phone: 304-366-4445

Fax: 304-366-4695

<http://www.marioncountyfrn.org/>

County: Putnam

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA:

Email:

Site Supervisor: Kelly Thompson

Email: kthompson@missionwv.org

Executive Director: David Rogers

Email: drogers@missionwv.org

Mission West Virginia, Inc.

168 Midland Trail, Suite 1

Hurricane, WV 25526

Phone: 304-562-0723

Fax: 304-562-0726

www.missionwv.org

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont.

County: Morgan

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Lisa Cox

Email: lisakcox32@yahoo.com

Site Supervisor/Director: Audrey Morris, Director

Email: morrisa2@earthlink.net

Morgan County Starting Points Center

292 N Washington Street, Unit 103

Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Phone 304-258-5600

Fax 304-258-6395

<http://www.starting-points.org>

County: Kanawha

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Dana Myslinsky

Email: danamyslinsky@gmail.com

Site Supervisor: James Straight

Email: brotherjames@wirefire.com

Rock Lake Community Life Center

905 Village Drive, S.

Charleston, WV 25309

Phone: 304-768-4141

Fax: 304-768-1415

Email: brotherjames@wirefire.com

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rock-Lake-Community-Life-Center/160456783966182>

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont.

County: Taylor

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Wilma Phillips

Site Supervisor/Director: Walesca Marrero

Email: taylorcountycollaborativefrn@yahoo.com

Taylor County Collaborative FRN

6 Harman Center

Grafton, WV 26354

Phone: 304-265-6838, Fax: 304-265-6839

County: Kanawha

AmeriCorps VISTA member: *recruiting*

Site Supervisor: Emily Schoen

Email: emily@educationalliance.org

Phone: 304-342-7849

Director/CEO: Dr. Pat Kusimo, President/CEO

Email: pat@educationalliance.org

The Education Alliance

803 Quarrier Street, Suite 500

Charleston, WV 25301

Phone: 304-342-7850

Fax: 304-342-0046

<http://www.educationalliance.org>

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont.

County: Marshall

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Anne Klem

Email: ycmcVISTA@yahoo.com

Site Supervisor: Lucinda Nicholson

Email: lucindanich@msn.com

The Youth Club of Marshall County

PO Box 109

Moundsville, WV 26041

County: Marshall

Phone: 304-843-1174

Phone: 304-639-3659

County: Berkeley

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: *recruiting*

Site Supervisor: Trina Bartlett

Email: tbartlett@uwayep.org

Phone: 304-263-0603 x 24

Director: Jan Callen

Email: uwepceo@comcast.net

United Way of the Eastern Panhandle

218 W. King Street

Martinsburg, WV 25401

Phone: 304-263-0603

Fax: 304-263-0614

<http://www.uwayep.org>

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont.

County: Ohio

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Tammy Kruse

Email: uplayoutside@yahoo.com

Site Supervisor: Charles Knight

Email: cknight@ysswv.com

Chief Executive Officer: John Moses

Email: Jomoses@ysswv.com

Youth Services Systems, Inc

1000 Chapline Street

Wheeling, WV 26003

Phone: 304-233-9627 x108

Fax: 304-233-0056

http://www.youthservicessystem.org/?page_id=63

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont.

Children's Home Society of West Virginia

Our Mission/Vision is to promote the well being of children; to nurture and protect children, while enhancing and strengthening families.

Programs we offer are adoption services, foster care, emergency shelters, family support services, advocacy services and behavioral health services. Target youth will be immersed in the **Five Promise** in efforts to not only help them individually, but promote these positive youth development efforts in the wider community. Children's Home Society of West Virginia works to help more foster care youth who are aging out succeed, and assist young people in the transition.

Family Resource Network of the Panhandle, Inc.

The Family Resource Network of the Panhandle facilitates planning and development of solutions within the community to improve the system of services to children and families within Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan Counties. The Family Resource Network of the Panhandle (FRNOTP) serves as an advocate for the people in our community and provides a forum by which the needs of families are communicated. FRNOTP works in a variety of ways to facilitate a collaborative effort among community agencies and businesses to ensure accessible, affordable and efficient services for families and remains committed to improving the diversity, scope, quality, and effectiveness of these services throughout the Eastern Panhandle.

For Love of Children's Outdoor Education Center

For Love of Children's Outdoor Education Center facilitates healthy character development of youth and adults through adventure challenges, environmental education, and sustainability practices in a powerful outdoor classroom where experiential learning inspires individual potential and leads participants toward discovering connections between the natural world and their communities.

Through programming we teach individual and group leadership skills, team building and environmental education.

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont.

Golden Girl Group Home

Golden Girl Group Home mission is to give hope to young girls in our care by counseling, educating, and mentoring them in a safe nurturing environment. The program is designed to encourage positive change and growth through a series of educational, recreational, treatment and support services in a warm, loving, and therapeutic environment.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park offers a wide choice of experiences for young people. From nature to history, from mountain hikes to river fishing, from ruined villages to quaint shops, from trains to canals, from battlefields to schoolyards, this town captures some of the most moving American stories ever told.

Marion County Family Resource Network

The mission of the Marion County Family Resource Network is to bring citizens together, individually and collectively, to improve the lives of Marion County families.

Our mission is accomplished by assessing community needs, planning to address those needs, mobilizing the community, and evaluating results. The FRN provides an excellent foundation for developing collaborations both formal and informal.

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont.

Mission West Virginia, Inc.

Mission West Virginia, Inc. is a non-profit organization that collaborates with public and private entities, particularly faith communities, equipping them to utilize existing resources to form new partnerships, encouraging innovative social change and building stronger communities in West Virginia. Our FrameWorks initiative provides a variety of programs to support, build and strengthen West Virginia families. These include adoptive and foster parent recruitment, child specific adoption recruitment and kinship care support for relative caregivers.

Morgan County Starting Points

The Morgan County Starting Points Mission is to serve as a community resource center that strengthens and nurtures Morgan County children and families by providing information, programs, and access to needed resources. Morgan County Starting Points offers a vast array of programs to the community.

Rock Lake Community Life Center

Vision Statement: A world in which human connection and spiritual self-growth is infinite, evident and easily accessible from isolated rural neighborhoods to expansive inner city communities. Rock Lake Community Life Center Mission Statement: To holistically enrich all aspects of individual lives for the improvement of the whole community within a creative framework by:

- * Collaborating with like-minded organizations
- * Creating an educational network
- * Providing a safe and encouraging environment
- * Presenting the support and resources needed for discovering creative talent
- * Fostering personal and spiritual growth

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont.

Taylor County Collaborative Family Resource Network

Taylor County Collaborative Family Resource Network improves services for children and families by: Assessing community needs and resources, developing and implementing local plans, coordinating services, increasing public awareness, mobilizing the community around issues affecting children and families, and evaluating the results of their efforts.

The Education Alliance

Mission is college and career readiness for all West Virginia students. Vision is every West Virginia public school student will graduate from high school college or career ready. The Education Alliance major programs and services are; Frontline Network is a training and planning pilot program that helps county school boards address the core issues of their count's high school completion challenge. Seeds is a prestigious professional development experience that links a seasoned business CEO and professional educational consultants with a public school principal. State Scholars brings business leaders into West Virginia classrooms, where they work with educators to motivate students to complete a rigorous Core Courses of Study in high school – one that will give them a boost in college and/or in their careers. Walk the Talk is a four-year leadership development club that pairs caring business mentor with high school students in six Kanawha, Ohio and Raleigh county high schools. WV eMentoring is an online career-based mentoring program for secondary students.

The Youth Club of Marshall County

Our mission is to provide a safe and caring place where students can socialize, participate in games, special recreation, and educational activities, study and receive tutoring – all in an adult supervised environment. The Youth Club's vision is vast. While continuing to offer the same quality of service we have provided for youth in preceding years, we will continue to serve an estimated 50-100 youth during more hours per week.

The Youth Club of Marshall County offers a safe place for youth to socialize and relax.

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont.

United Way of the Eastern Panhandle

Everyone deserves opportunities to have a good life: a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and good health. That's why United Way's work is focused on the building blocks for a good life:

Education: Helping Children and Youth Achieve Their Potential

Income: Promoting Financial Stability and Independence

Health: Improving People's Health

Youth Services System, Inc.

Youth Services System's mission is We believe ourselves to be, first and foremost, a community of caring, skilled persons who are drawn together by a shared sense of ministry to children and their families. It is the purpose of this community to create environments, provide services, and be totally available to children and their families whose legitimate needs demand effective responses.

WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Pam Dugan, Statewide Director
4770 Paynes Ford Road
Kearneysville, WV 25430
(304) 661-1460
pdugan@frontiernet.net
www.fivepromises.wv.gov

West Virginia Department of
Education and the Arts
Cabinet Secretary, Kay Goodwin

Corporation for National and
Community Service

West Virginia's Promise The
Alliance for Youth

Children's Home Society of WV Family Resource Network of the Panhandle FLOC For Love of Children Golden Girl Group Home Harpers Ferry National Historic Park Marion County Family Resource Network Morgan County Starting Points Rock Lake Community Life Center Taylor County Collaborative Family Resource Network The Education Alliance

The Youth Club of Marshall County United Way of the Eastern Panhandle WV Department of Education Youth Services Systems Inc.

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